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## SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

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April 26, 2022

Mayor Amarjeet Sohi  
2nd Floor, City Hall  
1 Sir Winston Churchill Square  
Edmonton, AB T5J 2R7

Dear Mayor Sohi:

**Edmonton Public Schools' Ten-Year Facilities Plan 2023-2032 and 2023-2026 Three-Year Capital Plan**

I am pleased to share with you Edmonton Public Schools' **Ten-Year Facilities Plan 2023-2032** (Attachment I) and **Three-Year Capital Plan 2023-2026** (Attachment II), both approved by our Board of Trustees on March 22, 2022.

Edmonton Public Schools' **Ten-Year Facilities Plan 2023-2032** identifies the Division's long-range facility needs and incorporates a strategic focus aimed at ensuring the effective and efficient use of capital funding. The Plan highlights the challenges facing the Division today, and in the decade to come. Our most pressing infrastructure challenges can be summarized into two key themes: a lack of available space due to continually rising enrolment, and the mounting deferred maintenance in our aging buildings. Fundamentally, choice for students and families will be reduced as available space declines, and aging buildings need repair or replacement.

The amount of space the Division has available to accommodate students is declining, which challenges the Division's ability to provide access to schools close to where students live, provide a range of alternative and Division centre special needs programs, and maintain yellow-bus service levels. With 93 schools operating at 80 per cent utilization or higher, providing optimal learning conditions for our students and staff is challenged by overcrowding.

The condition of many schools continues to decline as funding limitations are leading to a mounting deferred maintenance deficit in our aging buildings. Over 60 per cent of our schools are 50 years or older. This limits the Division's ability to deliver quality learning environments for all students regardless of where they live, and to provide diverse learning environments to accommodate student needs.

The **Three-Year Capital Plan 2023-2026** establishes the Division's highest priority school facility needs for the forthcoming three-year period. The Plan features two main areas of focus: new school construction and existing school maintenance. Five new construction projects to serve rapidly developing areas of the City top our priority list.

As I am sure you are aware, school jurisdiction capital plans are requests submitted to the Government of Alberta for funding. Funding for our school division, the second largest in the province, has not been very favourable these past few years. It is a concern that so many of Edmonton's communities, families and children are being denied adequate funding for school facilities to meet their needs for education, recreation and community use.

As part of the development of these plans, the Division has considered the strategic plans of the City of Edmonton and surrounding areas, including the City Plan. City policies relating to residential density targets in new and infill development impact our future needs for new schools and modernizations of existing facilities. We continue to work closely with your administration to understand how the city will evolve, to best align our resources with the development and demographic patterns in our city. We are concerned that our ability to reduce our Division's carbon footprint in the areas of efficient and more carbon neutral buildings, as well as minimizing travel distances for families and students, is being jeopardized due to inadequate school facility funding.

Should you wish to discuss either the **Ten-Year Facilities Plan 2023-2032** or the **Three-Year Capital Plan 2023-2026**, please call me at 780-429-8016.

Sincerely,



Trisha Estabrooks  
Board Chair

JD:kk

Attachments

- I - Ten-Year Facilities Plan 2023-2032
- II - Three-Year Capital Plan 2023-2026

c: Edmonton City Councillors  
Andre Corbould, City Manager, City of Edmonton  
Sandra Palazzo, Board Chair, Edmonton Catholic Schools  
Tanya Saumure, Board Chair, Conseil scolaire Centre-Nord  
Darrel Robertson, Superintendent, Edmonton Public Schools